

FEMA REGION V

short notes on planning # 2

HOW LONG IS AN APPROVED LOCAL PLAN GOOD FOR?

Just like a new computer, a Mitigation Plan is obsolete almost as soon as it is completed. We do not live in a static world and communities are constantly changing. This means that over time plans should be amended to address changes to the land and its uses. This helps ensure that new development does not create new risks and existing development is as safe as possible. The best way to deal with the changes that take place is to build-in specific times when the plan should be reviewed and updated.

- A. It is recommended that a Mitigation Plan be internally reviewed on a yearly basis and either be updated or reaffirmed. The update or reaffirmation document may also be used to summarize the accomplishments of the past year and help the community to prioritize community mitigation goals for the next year. The document reflecting the update/reaffirmation may then be added to the Mitigation Plan as an appendix.

The document should be presented to the governing board. If the document only re-affirms the information that is already in the plan, the board meeting minutes may be used to document the presentation. If the document results in changes to the plan, the board should adopt the document. This applies to both single jurisdiction plans and multiple jurisdiction plans. Revised plans should be forwarded to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer for review and approval for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA), the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) or the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM).

- B. The community may wish to update the mitigation plan when a disaster occurs within a community, whether or not it receives a Presidential Declaration. It is recommended that the update be completed as soon as possible, but by no later than the end of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the disaster occurs. Remember, post-disaster funds may hinge on the revision to the plan. So, the sooner the plan is amended the sooner funding becomes available.

C. HMGP and PDM plans are required to be revised every five years. However, if a community revises the plan and submits it to FEMA or the State for review and approval prior to the five year deadline, the five-year time clock will restart on the day the plan is approved by FEMA or a State that has received authority to approve the plan on FEMA's behalf. It is recommended that a FMA plan be updated every five years.